

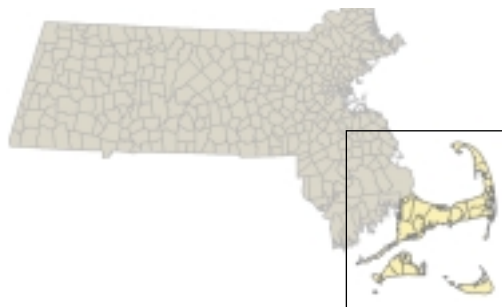
T H E CAPE & ISLANDS

W A T E R S H E D S

The Cape Cod and Islands have miles of beautiful shoreline, combined with dunes and marshlands, kettle ponds, and quaint village centers. A longtime Massachusetts vacation destination, this region is developing fast and becoming less seasonal. Currently, over 230,000 people live in the region year-round. In fact, according to EOE's buildout study of the Cape, if the Cape continues to grow at the same rate that it grew between 1990 and 2000, it could reach buildout as soon as 2023.

Currently, one third of the Cape is protected land, the third highest percentage in the state after Nantucket and the Berkshires. With the rapid development of the past 20 years, one third of the land on the Cape is now developed. With the population doubling in the summer, the parks and conservation land on the Cape serve over 500,000 people, a density of visitors per acre of parkland exceeded only by the major urbanized areas in the state.

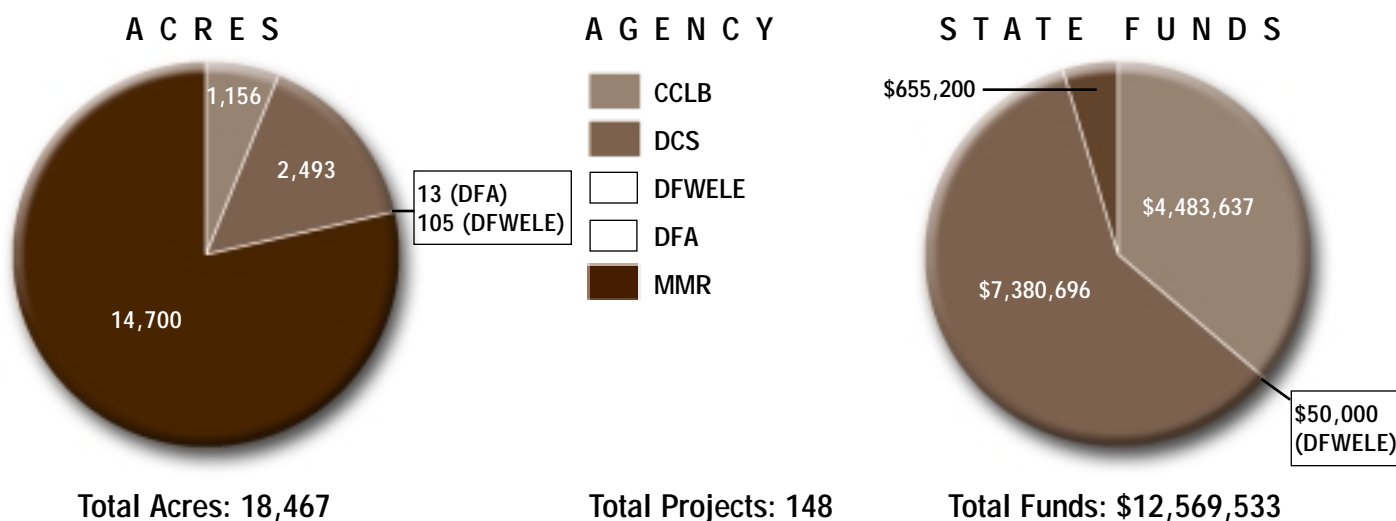
Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket have a summer population that swells to more than five times the permanent population, which makes groundwater supplies under the islands critical resources to protect. Due to the intensive work of the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank, Nantucket Islands Land Bank, The Nature Conservancy and the island's land trusts, conservation land makes up nearly half of the islands. Due to its unique habitats, Nantucket has more recorded occurrences of rare species (268 different plants and animals) than any other community in the Commonwealth.

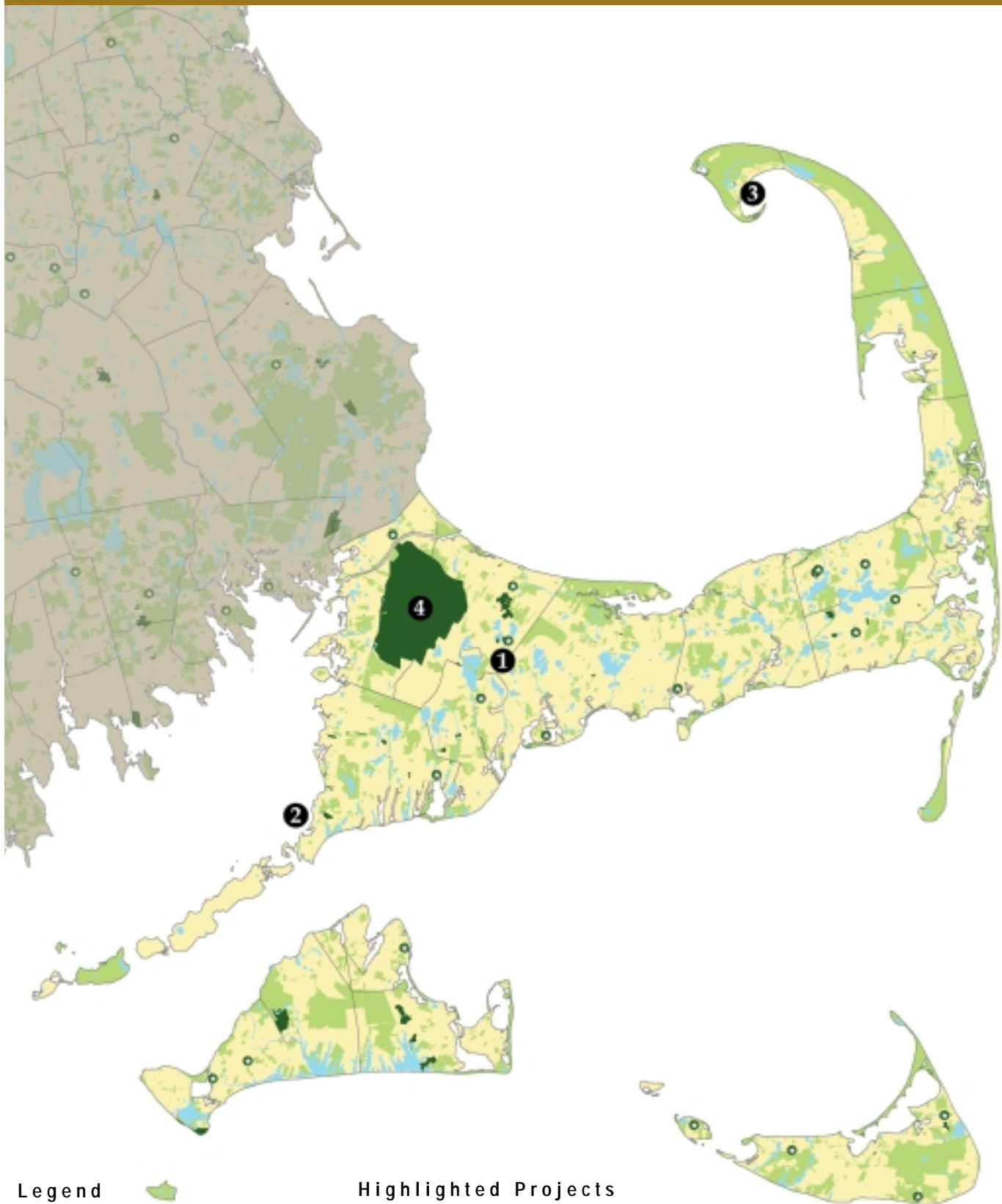


While the Cape and the Islands continue to experience development pressure, the region also leads the state and nation in land conservation and the use of land-use management tools. The region was the first to have "land banks," with the island's land banks dating to the mid-1980s. The Cape's land banks have effectively doubled the land conservation done by local communities purchasing 2,152 acres since February, 1999 with locally-raised money matched by state funding.

EOEA will continue to work with the Cape and Islands land trusts, land banks, and communities to protect the remaining unique ecosystems and water supply lands across the region. The opportunities for large acquisitions and broad greenways are limited given the fragmented landscape of the Cape and Islands. The Cape Cod Commission has a goal of protecting 50% of remaining unprotected open space on the Cape. EOE will strive to work with its partners to make that goal a reality.

C a p e & I s l a n d s L a n d P r o t e c t i o n S u m m a r y





Legend

- Conservation Restrictions (15-100 acres)
- Newly Protected Open Space (In Fee or CR)
- Previously Protected Open Space

Highlighted Projects

- 1 Triangle Pond
- 2 Peterson Farm
- 3 Shank Painter Pond
- 4 Massachusetts Military Reservation

0 1 2 Miles



MASSACHUSETTS MILITARY RESERVATION (MMR)

DFWELE, DEM, DEP * Bourne, Mashpee, Falmouth,
Sandwich • 14,700 acres

After years of discussions and intensive negotiations, Governor Jane Swift, Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Bob Durand, Adjutant General George Keefe, and Assistant Undersecretary of the U.S. Army Ray Fatz signed a landmark agreement that created an innovative management structure for the northern 15,000 acres of the MMR and permanently protected the land for water supply and wildlife habitat purposes.

The MMR is located on the upper western portion of Cape Cod, immediately south of the Cape Cod Canal, and encompasses parts of the towns of Bourne, Mashpee, and Sandwich and the Town of Falmouth. The entire MMR covers nearly 21,000 acres, or approximately 30 square miles. The northern 15,000 acres of MMR contains the largest potential future water supply site on Cape Cod, as well as the largest area of unfragmented forest habitat not permanently protected. This area is home to a great wealth of biodiversity and sits above Sagamore Lens, the sole source aquifer that provides drinking water for local residents and the thousands of visitors who travel to Cape Cod each year.

The commitment of local citizens and elected leaders have helped make the long-standing goal of permanently protecting this important resource a reality. The northern 15,000 acres of the MMR will forever remain unfragmented, protecting drinking water and biodiversity for future generations to enjoy.





TRIANGLE POND

DFWELE • Sandwich • 62 acres • Fee • \$300,000

In June, 2001, DFWELE acquired the Triangle Pond property in the southerly part of Sandwich from the Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) at an extreme bargain sale. MAS acquired the parcels throughout the 1990s, primarily to conserve the coastal plain pond resources and hold the land until the state could permanently protect it. The entire shoreline of the Triangle Pond parcel is considered a high-quality New England Coastal Plain Pond community, which includes two species of special concern and four watch-list species. Protection of Coastal Plain Pond communities is one of DFWELE's top priorities, as they are globally rare and highly endangered. These communities are limited to Cape Cod and southeastern Massachusetts and contain more than 40 rare species.

An inventory of this pond community found it to be the richest natural community in the region in terms of number of species and occurrence of rare species. Coastal Plain Ponds are highly sensitive and are threatened by pond shore development and other human activities, including water withdrawal for water supply. The Triangle Pond parcel was threatened with the development of 30 single-family homes that would have fragmented this important habitat and significantly degraded this low-nutrient pond with inputs from these septic systems.

The property contains approximately three quarters of a mile of frontage on 75-acre Triangle Pond and has steep slopes on more than half the acreage. Vegetation includes a wide diversity of mixed deciduous and evergreen forests dominated by black oaks and white pine.

PETERSON FARM

DCS • Falmouth • 88 acres • Grant
\$500,000 DCS, \$3,000,000 total cost

In 1998, the nonprofit 300 Committee worked very closely with the Town of Falmouth to protect 88 acres of farmland that had been under the ownership of two families for 334 years and was threatened by a 61-lot subdivision. The town matched the developer's offer of \$3 million and received \$500,000 from the Self-Help Program to purchase the land for conservation purposes including wildlife habitat protection, passive recreation, and agricultural use of the fields.

The Peterson Farm acquisition met many of the Self-Help Program's objectives, including linking to other protected open space and protecting a wildlife corridor. Visitors can enjoy fishing, cross country skiing, swimming, and orienteering on this property, which abuts Beebe Woods, a 386-acre parcel of protected land also acquired with Self-Help assistance. This rich habitat supports otter, fox, wild turkey, fisher, deer, and coyote. The plant life is equally diverse on this one-of-a-kind property.



SHANK PAINTER POND

DCS • Provincetown • 7.5 acres • Grant
\$250,000 DCS, \$1,600,000 total cost

This acquisition brings to mind the old adage, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” The acquisition of land at Shank Painter Pond was originally part of the plan for the Cape Cod National Seashore back in the 1960s, but the land was never purchased by the National Park Service. The Town of Provincetown had hoped to buy 3.5 acres in 1996, but the project did not come to fruition until 1999. In 1999, using Provincetown Land Bank funding and the assistance of the Provincetown Conservation Trust, Provincetown finally purchased 7.5 acres and received \$250,000 in Self-Help assistance from the DCS.

This property was a prime candidate for Self-Help funding for many reasons. The area had been identified by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as a high-priority rare species habitat. Shank Painter Pond is home to five rare animal species and six rare plant species and is adjacent to other protected lands. The bog has been identified as the largest quaking bog on a barrier beach/coastal dune system found anywhere in the world. The 7.5-acre parcel is comprised of a wooded dune sloping steeply to Shank Painter Pond. Together with a donation of 22 acres of bog to the Provincetown Conservation Trust, this acquisition has effectively protected half of the shoreline of the pond.

